

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 138-175, 177-242, 244-247, 249-251, 253-255, 257-294 and 296-306 are present in this application. Claims 243, 248, 252, 256 and 295 are canceled and new claims 296-306 are added. New claims 296-306 contain language which is found in previously pending claims, and no question of introduction of new matter is believed to be raised by new claims 296-306.

Claims 235, 237-242, 247, 251, 255 and 259 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over US 6,180,496 (Farrens et al.). Claims 138-175, 177-234, 236 and 260-290 are allowed and claims 243-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258 and 291-295 were found to be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

First, the Applicants greatly appreciate confirming the allowance of claims 138-175 and 177-234 and the allowance of claims 236 and 260-290. The Applicants also greatly appreciate the finding of claims 243-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258 and 291-295 to recite patentable subject matter. Claim 235 is rewritten to include the elements of claim 243, and claim 246 is rewritten into independent form. The claims dependent therefrom are also believed to be in condition for allowance. New claims 296-306 are dependent from allowable claim 246 and thus are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 247, 251, 255, 270, 274 and 278 are amended to recite “element” to be consistent with the claims from which they depend.

Claims 202, 215, 227, 251 and 274 are amended to insert “of” for clarity.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a favorable decision to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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